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Mission Today in the Tanzanian Context:

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As we speak of Mission Today in Tanzanian Context, we always bear in mind that Tanzania is a multireligious society (multireligiose Gesellschaft). This is to say that the rapid spread of religious pluralism is one of the most noticeable signs of our times. The pluralism of religions in every part of the world has now become an inevitable reality as we have various ideologies in different parts of the world.

Before the advent of Christianity in Africa, we had one religion the so-called African Traditional Religion with various distinctions from one region to another, but now as in other parts of the world no religion is confined to a particular continent or country any more.

As a result of religious pluralism in Tanzania and in many other African countries, it is very normal to see people of different religions living in one family e.g. a husband and wife coming from two different religions and children are able to choose either to follow the religion of the father or of the mother.

Due to this fact that there is a visible religious pluralism the main missionary struggle is now to see how we can live together in Peace in a Pluralistic Society. Therefore the modern understanding of mission is most represented by the phrases of “humanization,” and “dialogue.” This aims at encouraging Peace among people of various religions.

This kind of mission gets another emphasis as the work of enabling a meeting of different souls and persons, and allowing for the lives of people to be touched by one another.

The aim of Christian Mission stands therefore as **healing, teaching and reconciling** mission to which the community is called.

In this error of religious pluralism many African Churches seem to have largely left the model of mission as proclamation and conversion in their literal understanding, all churches on the institutional level are coping in one way or the other with the questions of many contexts, many religions, many cultures and systems of values.

Many churches are trying their own ways a different understanding of “Christian witness”. Instead of only preaching they also begin to start ministering the socially poor and marginalized of our societies in their contexts.

In conclusion I can say that,

To continue with the mission in a pluralistic society the Church involves herself in the process of making peace among people. This requires us a radical openness and acceptance to people about whom we know very little, or upon whom we build all different conceptions. It is in this way that the public nature of religion in Tanzania has not fostered any division or tension but rather understanding and acceptance.

Thank you, for your attention.